



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

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Date: May 24, 2018

Attachment 03

To: State Board of Fire Services

From: Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal, State Fire Training

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

Vallejo Fire Department Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Application

Recommended Actions:

Approval of Vallejo Fire Department as an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for the initial accreditation period of three years.

Background Information:

An accreditation site visit was conducted on March 20, 2018, at the Vallejo Fire Department Training Tower located at 703 Curtola Parkway in Vallejo, California. The accreditation site evaluation team included Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal Chris Fowler, State Fire Training; Deputy State Fire Marshal Caryn Petty, State Fire Training; Deputy Chief Jim Eastman, Fire Service Training Specialist III, State Fire Training; Chief John Walsh, Alameda County Fire Department, STEAC Representative; and Fire Academy Professor German Sierra, Los Medanos College. Introductions were facilitated by Acting-Battalion Chief of Training Matt Fenzl, Vallejo Fire Department, that included Fire Chief Jack McArthur, Deputy Chief Mark Sharpe, and Academy staff. A review of the provided Self-Assessment Report was conducted by the Site Visit Accreditation team followed by a tour of all classrooms and training facilities with opportunity to review training course records and equipment compliment.

The Vallejo Fire Department began providing emergency response services to the citizens of Vallejo and the surrounding county in 1858. Vallejo is the tenth most populous city in the San Francisco Metropolitan Bay Area and the largest in Solano County. The City is also home to Six Flags Discovery Kingdom amusement park. The Department is an all-risk Advanced Life Support (ALS) agency with 68 sworn personnel with specialty training in Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), hazardous materials, Tactical Emergency Medicine Support (TEMS), among others. The Department endured bankruptcy in 2008 which forced closure of stations and reduction in staffing, a challenge that been overcome by an exit of bankruptcy in 2011 and increased staffing, response, and outreach efforts. The

Department hosts a youth firefighting academy for at-risk youth as well as a youth Explorer Program in efforts to increase diversity within the agency and bolster recruitment.

The ALA Application was approved by STEAC on April 13, 2018.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

A tour of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning training tower with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program.

Vallejo Fire Department has transitioned to the 2013 Fire Fighter I curriculum and is positioning itself to participate in certification exam testing. This facility has the space and props to enable certification exam testing. Several Registered Instructors within the Department participate in the Academy delivery and Vallejo Fire Department intends to begin hosting additional State Fire Training courses at their facility and in conjunction with cooperating agencies.

The team traveled to Vallejo Fire Department Administrative Offices at 970 Nimitz Avenue, Mare Island, and toured designated training sites throughout the city. Student records and training archives remain secured at the training facility in accordance with SFT requirements. The training facility presents a state-of-the-art academy classroom equipped with progressive audio/visual equipment, tiered-seating conducive to learning, and computer access for all students. The best practices observed by the site evaluation team included a passion and dedication to training and the cooperative relationship maintained with other fire entities in neighboring jurisdictions. The Vallejo Fire Department has demonstrated a strong devotion to training that is indicative of a progressive organization.

The site team is unanimous in the recommendation of Vallejo Fire Department being accredited as an ALA in the SFT system.